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7 JUN 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Information, DDA

FROM:

Deputy Director of Security
Policy and Management

STAT

SUBJECT: Presidential Review of the Classification
System

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Assistant for Information,
DDA, dated 9 June 1977, same subject
(DDA 77-3353)

BECAME
EO 12958

1. As you are aware, the Office of Security is providing support directly to the Office of General Counsel with respect to Agency participation in the ad hoc committee preparing the new Executive Order on classification.

2. With respect to your solicitation in reference, the Office of Security offers only one strong recommendation for consideration in the revision of Executive Order 11652. This recommendation is outlined below.

3. As you are aware, the current Executive Order identifies only two bases for classifying information, viz. damage to the national defense or to sensitive foreign relations. These bases do not adequately serve the need for protecting information revealing intelligence sources and methods, which if disclosed might impair the continued availability of the intelligence product. The problem is caused by the fact that the revelation of the intelligence source and method not always causes damage to the national defense or foreign relations but may indeed result in the loss of the source or method involved.

4. It is recommended, therefore, that in the replacement for Executive Order 11652 a third basis for classification be explicitly authorized, i.e. the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

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